

# **SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK**

## **Policy Council Minutes May 28, 2003**

### **Members/Representatives Present:**

- Susan Melanson, Children's Network
- Roberta York, Preschool Services Department
- Cory Nelsen, Child Support
- Claudia Spencer, Public Health
- Jim Felten, Public Health
- Tom Prendergast, Public Health
- Don Larkin, First 5 San Bernardino
- Bonnie O'Connor, Children's Fund
- Peggy Bellet
- Jeanne Smith, Center for Healing
- Sandra Chaleyorid, Center for Healing
- Ray Wingerd, Probation
- Karen Bell, DA – Juvenile Division
- Andy Gruchy, Department of Behavioral Health
- Mandi Batalo, SB County Library
- Terry Kramer, Department of Behavioral Health
- Cathy Cimbalo, Director of Department of Children's Services
- Rudy Lopez, Department of Behavioral Health
- Paula Roby, Department of Behavioral Health
- Joyce Lewis, Department of Behavioral Health
- Mel Rinewalt, Probation
- Gerald Farber, Public Defender
- Bonnie Konowitch, Children's Network
- Patricia Nickols, Children's Network
- Janet Cullen, Dept. of Children's Services – ARD
- Coley Bowman, Dept. of Children's Services – ARD
- Brian Pickering, Human Services System Legislation & Research
- Carol Anselmi, HSS Administration
- Honorable Rex Victor
- Kent Paxton, Children's Network Officer
- Mike Stodelle, San Bernardino Sheriff's Department
- Bruce Davis, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Board of Supervisors Representative
- Ed Rowe, Children's Network
- Sandra DeJarnett, First Nations Tribal Family Center
- Pamelalee Bailey-Shimizu, First Nations Tribal Family Center
- Tammy Williams, Children's Network

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The meeting of the Children's Network Policy Council was called to order at 12:05 p.m. and convened by Judge Victor in the Citrus Room, fifth floor, County Government Center.

## **1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

Honorable Rex Victor welcomed those present and self-introductions were made.

## **2.0 Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the agenda as read.

## **3.0 Approval of April Minutes**

The April 23, 2003 minutes were approved as submitted.

## **4.0 Discussion/Action Items**

### **4.1 CAPIT Contracts Child Abuse Prevention Contracts: Discussion/Action Requested to forward recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for the FY ¾ Child Abuse Prevention contracts**

Cathy Cimbalo referred everyone to the CAPIT contract renewals in their packets. The recommendation is to renew the five contracts: Catholic Charities, Center for Healing, First Nations, Lutheran Social Services, and Pacific Clinics. The funding has increased because some of the current contractors were not recommended for renewal.

Discussion: The contractors mentioned they would be able to expand their services further in the County due to the increased contract amount. A question was asked, "What contracts are not being renewed and why?" Cathy responded: 1) Family Services Agency: their teen pregnancy prevention program is now being provided by San Bernardino City Unified School District; 2) High Desert Youth Center: High Desert has not met service delivery targets; and 3) Bilingual Family Counseling: Bilingual has not completed with the mandated program evaluation activities. Pamelalee Bailey-Shimizu mentioned they have been doing vital quality work at First Nations due to the support they have gotten from staff at DCS-ARD Panda Harris and Coley Bowman. Jeanne Smith from the Center for Healing mentioned they enjoy working with the families and are happy with the professionalism shown to them by Panda Harris and Cody Bowman. **Action: There being no further discussion, a motion was made and carried to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the CAPIT Contracts recommendation.**

## **5.0 Information Items**

### **5.1 Children's Fund Report**

Bonnie O'Connor reported they are busy with the fiscal year end. The fundraisers this year netted so far; Women's Auxiliary Groups raised \$70,000 during their home tours and other activities; the Annual Duck Race raised about \$56,000 and it could have possibly been better if the grand prize was a car; and the next major fundraiser is the golf tournament on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Bonnie expects the figures in July will show 1.7 million dollars raised. Bonnie presented Cathy Cimbalo with a small trophy because DCS was the top selling team with 2500 ducks adopted and DBH was right behind. The funding is used for many things such as; clothing, rent and utility assistance, etc. They are currently looking at new strategies due to the budget outlook for the county.

### **5.2 DBH Strategic Plan**

Kent reported he has been working with DBH staff since January to set-up a Strategic Plan for Children's Services through DBH. They had a series of focus groups held around the county. Kent thanked Brian Pickering and Kathy Watkins of the HSS Research and Legislation Unit for their assistance. Brian Pickering referred everyone to the 3 handouts; 1) Themes from Stakeholders Focus Groups; 2) Stakeholders Draft; and 3) Children's Network Policy Council DBH Strategic Planning Focus Groups Draft. Through out the research the emergent themes that kept coming back up are collaboration and communication. The individual responses are not listed, but will be returned to Kent and Paula Roby. Participants to the focus groups were from; DBH Management, Probation, DCS, CBOs (Community Based Organizations), providers of treatment and counseling, County Schools, and Children's Network staff.

Kent thanked Paula Roby for all her assistance in this project. He referred everyone to a packet with an Executive Summary and a power point presentation. Kent also invited everyone to attend the Kick Off on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. at BHRC Auditorium in Rialto.

Paula mentioned some key points are; through communication and collaboration an infrastructure will be developed and eventually run itself on it's own. Some responses heard were; the readiness for training, some self-evaluations; and to know partners and work with them on systems. Another thing heard was line staff wants to communicate and collaborate with management to improve coordination of services.

Kent mentioned the most effective model is an interagency model since so many agencies are involved with the same families. The goal through discovery and recovery model is to improve outcomes for families' and build on their strengths.

Rudy Lopez mentioned his concern about children's needs being unmet through DBH. His plan is to have 2 directors, one for adults and one for children. Other staff and resources will be dedicated for Children's Services. There will be much better coordination and collaboration once staff and resources are dedicated to Children's Services.

Kent mentioned that the MDT (Multidisciplinary Team) model would be probably used with regional teams from DCS, DBH, Public Health, and Special Education. These teams will need to form partnerships to improve outcomes for family and integrate service plans.

Paula Roby mentioned line staff appreciate training and welcome a group to case conference their most complicated cases. It would be helpful to define and recruit staff to specialize in children's work. Also, to develop policy and procedures, provision of quality medical services, psychiatrists to provide medication, etc.

### **5.3 Case Management Decision Tree**

Kent reported for Brian Thomson, because he was unable to attend today due to his wife's illness. Kent referred everyone to the Decision Tree in their packet that shows the agencies involved in Children's cases and the order in which they are referred for the; MDT, Regional Family Preservation Council, Interagency Placement Council, Wraparound Services, High end care, specialized residential treatment. HSS – PDU (Program Development Unit) also produced the MDT Family Preservation Referral Assessment. They are presently working on instructions that will be used by the referring agencies.

### **6.0 Other**

Honorable Rex Victor mentioned he is personally grateful the recently approved contract for a new County building to house the Dependency Courts, DCS Court offices, and County Counsel. He thanked Cathy Cimbalo, Court staff, etc. for all the hard work and dedication to this complex project. Everyone is welcome to come to the groundbreaking ceremony.

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Susan Melanson mentioned the Safe Summer Kids Campaign has started for this summer running through Memorial Day to Labor Day. The focus this year again is on Drowning Prevention and not leaving children unattended in cars. The campaign is in full force. Lots of child abuse prevention materials are available to distribute to your clients and community events. Lots of agencies are involved with getting out the word on child abuse prevention. Susan asked if you know of an event in the community to let her or Sue Taylor know, so they could coordinate partners to attend the events. The drowning in this County actually went down last year, and it is felt our educational efforts helped.

#### **7.0 Public Comment**

No comment. Meeting adjourned.

#### **8.0 Next Meeting will be June 25, 2003.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Tammy Williams  
Children's Network  
Policy Council Recording Secretary**

/tgw